USACE Hydropower – Renewable, Reliable, Energy Independence for America

USACE is the largest owner-operator of hydroelectric power plants in the United States and one of the largest in the world. USACE currently operates 353 hydroelectric generating units at 75 multipurpose reservoirs, a total capability of 21,000 megawatts with approximately 60 percent in the Pacific Northwest. This capability generates about 24 percent of America's hydroelectric power and represents approximately 3 percent of the country's total electric-generating capacity.

Funding

The President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) includes $4.826 billion in gross discretionary funding for the Civil Works program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and includes $210 million for the hydropower program. This Budget will support priority operation and maintenance work necessary to maintain safe project operation. The Budget was developed using a risk management approach. Risk management entails prioritizing the highest priority new construction, major rehabilitation projects and priority maintenance activities. USACE's hydroelectric plants, built as an additional benefit to navigation and/or flood control projects, produce nearly 70 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity each year, enough energy to serve about 75 million households or 407 cities the size of Washington, DC. USACE's hydropower generation is a renewable source of energy, displacing traditional thermal generation and avoiding 40.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions annually. Hydropower is a clean, economical, renewable domestic energy source that can contribute to the Nation's energy security. Hydropower can serve a primary role in meeting peak energy demands and energy reserve needs to protect the national power systems reliability and stability.

Hydropower facilities require considerable and increasing risk management activities, such as monitoring, examination, analyses, maintenance and repair in order to assure safe operations and to provide the benefits for which they were designed and constructed. USACE continues to work closely with Power Marketing Administrations and their customers to identify both funding priorities and opportunities for direct non-Federal financing of hydropower improvements. Two additional long-term agreements, in the Southeastern Power Administration's Cumberland River Basin and in the entire Southwestern Power Administration region, will substantially increase the direct non-federal investments in USACE power plants in these regions in future years. USACE's hydropower facilities also provide a number of ancillary services that support stability of portions of the nation's electrical grid and frequently provide backup power for intermittent renewable energy resources such as wind and solar power.

Program Objectives

- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of existing USACE water resources projects.
- Recapitalize and upgrade projects where doing so is economically justified.

Key Messages

- USACE is the largest owner-operator of hydroelectric power plants in the United States and one of the largest in the world.
- Hydropower is a renewable source of energy and avoids 40.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions
- The President's Fiscal Year 2014 Budget of $210 million will allow USACE to continue funding the highest priority hydropower operations and maintenance projects.
- For more information about USACE hydroelectric power program, visit http://www.usace.army.mil/.

Facts & Figures

- USACE operates 75 hydropower plants with a rated capacity of 20,475 Megawatts (MW), and a maximum capability of 22,900 MW.
- USACE owns and operates 353 hydroelectric generating units that represent 24 percent of the nation's hydropower capability and 3 percent of the total electric capability.
- USACE hydropower plants produce nearly 70 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity.
- 60 non-Federal power plants are Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensed to operate at USACE dams representing about 2,300 MW of installed capacity.